

Docket No.: 2843 (02-24.US)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A binding assay device comprising:
a porous membrane comprising a material enabling capillary movement of a liquid sample from a first area of the membrane to a second area of the membrane;
a detection site disposed on the membrane between the first and second areas;
a non-absorbent medium disposed on the membrane between said detection site and the membrane first area, the medium being attached to the membrane by an adhesive; and
a dry reagent adhered only to the underside of ~~disposed between the non-absorbent medium and the membrane, wherein the liquid sample passing by capillarity along the non-absorbent medium~~ is mixed with the dry reagent ~~passing through the non-absorbent medium~~ and a mixed sample is absorbed into the membrane before reaching said detection site.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2-1 wherein said dry reagent is in the form of a stripe, said stripe being generally transverse to a direction of sample migration.
4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1 wherein the dry reagent is particle based in an aqueous buffer solution.
5. (previously presented) The device according to claim 4 wherein the medium comprises polyester film MYLAR®.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The device according to claim 6 5 wherein said dry reagent is in the form of a stripe, said stripe being aligned transverse to a direction of sample migration.

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8. (currently amended) The device according to claim 6 5 wherein the dry reagent is particle based in an aqueous buffer solution.

9. (original) The device according to claim 8, said dry reagent comprises between about 2% and about 30% w/v sugar.

10. (original) The device according to claim 9 wherein said sugar comprises sucrose.

11. (currently amended) A method of producing a binding assay device, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a porous membrane comprising a material enabling capillary movement of a liquid sample from a first area of the membrane to a second area of the membrane;

disposing a detection site on the membrane between the first and second areas;

providing a non-absorbent medium having a bottom side with an adhesive disposed on the bottom side;

disposing a particle based reagent onto the medium bottom side of the non-absorbent medium;

evaporating a solvent in the particle based reagent to provide a dry reagent on the medium bottom side of the medium; and

adhering the medium bottom side to the membrane between the first area said and the detection site.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the non-absorbent medium is provided with adhesive covering a center medium the bottom side of the medium and the the particle based reagent is disposed onto the adhesive.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the evaporated particle based reagent is disposed as a bead along non-absorbent medium and the step of evaporating a subject results in a stripe of dry reagent along the non-absorbent medium.

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14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13 wherein the step of evaporating the subject includes evaporating a water solvent.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14 wherein the particle based reagent includes a concentrate of a sugar.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein the sugar is present in an amount between 2% and 30% W/V.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15 further comprising the step of varying a concentrate of the sugar in the particle based reagent in order to control a rate of mobilization of the particle based reagent into the membrane upon passage of liquid sample therewith.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15 further comprising the step of varying a concentration of the sugar in the particle based reagent in order to increase a viscosity thereof thereby enabling the particle based reagent to be applied in bead form without collapse or separation of the bead upon movement of the medium and drying of the particle based reagents.

19-22 (canceled)

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